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Jordan welcomes EC statement on Mideast as highly positive

Combined agency dispatches

AMMAN — Jordan Wednesday welcomed a European Community (EC) statement as a highly positive development in the European stand towards the Middle East problem and expressed hope that the community would exert effective efforts towards achieving a just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, in a statement to the French news agency (AFP), pointed out that the EC call, issued at the conclusion of a two-day summit of the leaders of the 12 EC member states in Madrid Tuesday, contained an explicit endorsement of the land-in-exchange-for-peace formula as called for in U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The EC statement "is an implicit expression of (European) support for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people," Sharif Zaid was quoted as saying by AFP.

The statement reflects greater understanding of the Palestinian question and the struggle of the Palestinian people under occupation," Sharif Zaid said. The statement, which also contained a call for Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) participation in peace efforts, denunciation of Israeli practices against the Palestinian people and a demand that the Zionist state adhere to the Fourth Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilians During Wartime, is in harmony with international public opinion and conviction that Israel resorts to oppression in a bid to deny the Palestinian people their legitimate rights and to hinder the peace process, the prime minister said.

Kuwait described the EC statement as "a new positive attitude" towards the PLO. Earlier EC statements have called for the PLO to be "associated" with the peace process, but Tuesday's statement said the EC leaders were "of the view that the PLO should participate in this process."

In reply to a question, he said that the resolutions taken at Alexandria now await constitutional measures through parliaments in the four countries before they could be put into force.

Nammar expressed confidence that the ACC would eventually achieve all its objectives and goals and contribute to bolstering Arab economic cooperation.

ACC chief arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) Secretary General Hilmi Nammar arrived in Amman Wednesday to discuss with Jordanian officials on setting up the ACC headquarters in Amman in implementation of resolutions taken by the ACC heads of state at their Alexandria meeting earlier this month.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid told reporters in Cairo that the EC statement showed "the importance of the European role in contributing to the peace process" and that an international conference under U.N. auspices "remain the proper formula for a solution to the Palestinian problem."

Kuwait described the EC statement as "a new positive attitude" towards the PLO. Earlier EC statements have called for the PLO to be "associated" with the peace process, but Tuesday's statement said the EC leaders were "of the view that the PLO should participate in this process."

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Nabulsi: Jordan seeks continued Arab aid and increased confidence in dinar

By Rakan Majali

AMMAN — Jordan is pursuing contacts with Arab countries to ensure continued financial assistance which came to an end with the expiry of a 10-year period as undertaken at the 1979 Baghdad Arab summit. Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi said Wednesday.

Under the Baghdad summit resolution, Arab countries undertook to pay an annual aid of \$1.2 billion to Jordan for 10 years. But the Kingdom received only part of the amount.

"Arab financial assistance is only one source of foreign exchange for Jordan," Nabulsi said in an interview with the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i. "Foreign exchange also used to come in the form of remittances by Jordanian expatriates working in the Gulf states," he noted. "But, the remittances have now declined due to several reasons and there is no way to raise the level of remittances except through boosting confidence in the Jordanian dinar and stabilising the monetary situation of the country," he said.

Nabulsi said that when he previously served as CBJ governor, he had proposed the idea of selling one quarter of the Kingdom's gold reserves of one million ounces. Approximately 150,000 ounces were exchanged for foreign currencies, he said. At present, he said, Jordan has approximately 600,000 ounces, 140,000 of which could be traded in exchange for a loan. If the loan is guaranteed within the near future, the gold would be released, he added.

Asked what the CBJ intended to do to boost foreign currency reserves through commercial banks, Nabulsi said: "One cannot deny that these banks cannot, under the present conditions, provide reserves even though some of them do through buying them from abroad. Jordan has to look for other more effective ways of boosting its reserves."

Asked whether the International Monetary Fund (IMF) would extend \$275 million as credit to Jordan as a result of a recent agreement, Nabulsi said the fund had drawn up a several-year programme during which it will provide \$100 million over the period of one and a half years. The most important part of the programme has to do with the IMF's approval of the Kingdom's "corrective" measures, which would open the way to rescheduling of Jordan's foreign debts. This matter, he said, will be subject to discussion in July in Paris with the government and financing institutions and in London with commercial banks. The point of such discussions, he said, is to reduce the debt burden by rescheduling installments and interest for certain periods. This would certainly lessen the pressure on foreign currency demands, he said.

The IMF, he said, is intent on providing \$150 million in the next six months. Japan is also expected to offer Jordan financial assistance, he said.



Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi
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Police said the explosion in a garbage bin was caused by a bomb, but Israel radio said a grenade exploded in the bin.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, a Palestinian accused of collaborating with the Israeli occupied authorities died of wounds suffered in a beating by last week, Arab reporters said.

At least eight Palestinians were reported shot and wounded in clashes between soldiers and rock-throwing protesters in the West Bank.

Israel's supreme court denied the appeal of a Palestinian against expulsion, opening the way for expelling the 48th resident of the occupied territories since the start of the 18-month-old uprising.

In Ramle, three Israelis and an Arab suffered light wounds from fragments of the metal garbage can where the explosion went off.

Police detained dozens of Arabs for questioning in the bomb blast, and paramilitary police were rushed to the town.

Jewish leader assails Israeli scheme

TEL AVIV (AP) — U.S. Jewish leader Seymour Reich Wednesday criticized as harmful to peace efforts an Israeli minister's plan to settle Soviet Jews in the occupied West Bank.

Reich, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said the proposal by right-wing Housing Minister David Levy was ill-advised.

"Using the Soviet Jewry issue in terms of settlements is counterproductive at this point in time. It's a digression. The focus should be on two issues—the peace process and getting Soviet Jews out of the Soviet Union."

"The reference to settlements in the context of Soviet Jewry has merely exacerbated the issue and... can hurt the peace process," Reich told a conference of the Jewish Agency, a semi-governmental group which organizes Jewish emigration to Israel.

Levy, on a tour of West Bank settlements Tuesday, said he would pursue a plan by Jewish settlers to adopt immigrant families and build them houses with government subsidies.

The settlers, who have moved into the occupied territories to assert Israel's claim of "sovereignty," have increasingly been involved in violence with Palestinians.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker recently restated American opposition to settlements in the occupied territories, saying they did not create an atmosphere conducive to peace.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has predicted some 50,000 Soviet immigrants will come to the Jewish state in the next two years, although arrivals currently average only a few hundred a month.

Jewish Agency Chairman Simcha Dinitz told Reuters the agency would not contribute to Levy's scheme because its policy was to spend money only within Israel's pre-1967 borders.

Levy's spokeswoman Aliza Goren said the minister fully supported efforts by settlers to help absorb immigrants.

"Once we see how many families are adopted we will help settlers build apartment units. They are expecting several thousand immigrants," she said.

"As much as (Levy) favours our relationship with the United States, he thinks this is in the Israeli interest," she said.

Arab panel launches fresh Lebanon efforts; fighting continues

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Three Arab heads of state entrusted with ending Lebanon's 14-year-old civil war have told the devastated country's feuding leaders to talk not fight.

They said they wanted Lebanon's parliament to meet at a neutral venue abroad to chart the path to reform and peace.

But first the kings of Morocco and Saudi Arabia and the Algerian president are calling for an end to the battles that have swept Beirut since mid-March and the blockade which prompted them.

The three heads of state, charged by an Arab summit last month to solve the Lebanese crisis, outlined their plan after meeting for the second time in a month at Algerian President Chadli Benjedid's summer residence outside this Western city late Tuesday.

"An invitation will be addressed to the Lebanese parliament to meet outside Lebanon in a place they choose to discuss and prepare a charter of national harmony," a final communique said.

"We express our deep regret for the continuation of violence... despite the appeal issued by all the Arabs," the three Arab leaders said in their statement from Oran.

"We stress that for the initiation of dialogue resulting in benefits for the Lebanese and Leba-

nese,"

Fugitive Chinese student leader to pursue democracy

HONG KONG (Agencies) — Student leader Wu Er Xai, in a videotape made after fleeing China, has made a dramatic vow to continue the struggle for democracy and predicted the Communist leadership will soon fall.

"This kind of government doesn't have the strength to continue living," Wu Er said in the 18-minute videotape shown Wednesday to the Associated Press. "They are the people's enemies."

Wuer escaped from China with his girlfriend, Liu Yan, despite a nationwide manhunt in which his picture was posted in airports and train stations.

He was easily the most charismatic of the 21 student leaders accused by Communist authorities of inciting "counterrevolutionary rebellion."

Authorities ordered his arrest as part of the crackdown on dissent in China that began June 3-4, when soldiers attacked unarmed pro-democracy demonstrators in Beijing, killing hundreds, perhaps thousands.

Wuer, at times choking back tears, made several emotional references to the people killed during that battle, in which much of the fighting raged along Chang'an Street that runs into Tiananmen Square.

"I don't know how many mar-

tinued between Syrian-backed Lebanese militiamen and troops loyal to army commander Michel Aoun.

Police said one person was killed and three were wounded as rocket and artillery shells crashed on both sides of the green line that slices Beirut.

By police count, 374 people have been killed and 1,463 wounded since March 8, when violence broke out between Aoun's army units and allied Syrian and Lebanese forces.

A police spokesman said several rounds of shelling crashed along a coastal strip north of Beirut as gunners in west Beirut sought to keep up their blockade of the 800-square-kilometre Christian enclave.

The Arab committee meeting in Oran has called for lifting the siege.

Salim Al Hoss, who leads Lebanon's civilian government, told reporters:

"We announce our respect for the decisions taken by the Arab tripartite committee and announce our readiness to cooperate fully with all its efforts to pull Lebanon out of its crisis."

There was no reaction from Aoun.

House Speaker Hussein Husseini told Reuters: "Parliament is ready to fulfil its duties and it supports Arab efforts."

"Fellow students' bodies being put in plastic bags, stacked up and burned," Wuer said.

"Those of us who remain alive, our lives no longer belong to ourselves," he said. "The lives of those classmate and the countrymen who sacrificed themselves for democracy, for freedom and for our beautiful motherland have dissolved into our own."

He urged those who participated in the campaign for freedom to "focus our will and continue the great patriotic democratic movement until the end... if we don't get our act together, we won't be able to get moving and China will never advance."

Wuer, who looked pale in the videotape, wore a white T-shirt with the name of his school, Peking Normal University, on the front. He said the statement was made about two weeks after the Peking bloodbath. He did not say where he was videotaped.

The articulate and charismatic Wuer videotaped the interview for those in Hong Kong who helped him escape.

In a copy of the script made available to Reuters he said: "The day of the massacre I saw many killed, with guns and clubs. I myself saw students shot through the head and stomach, their heads smashed in and their stomachs bleeding."

But the official, who was not identified, denied the recall was connected to international fallout from the harsh crackdown on dissident.

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Middle East News

Arafat in Hanoi

BANGKOK (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat held talks with Vietnamese Premier Do Nuoi Wednesday following a delayed arrival in Hanoi caused by what was said to be "air navigation problems," news reports said.

The official Vietnam News Agency (VNA), monitored in Bangkok, gave no details of the talks among the leaders and other top officials of the two sides.

Arafat arrived in Vietnam's capital Tuesday evening, an earlier Vietnamese agency report said. Arafat, president of the State of Palestine and head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), originally had been expected Monday night.

The Jerusalem Post reported Wednesday that after Arafat departed from North Korea, his plane was diverted to Peking for 18 hours due to "air navigational problems." It gave no details.

The Vietnamese agency said Arafat had visited Vietnam twice previously, in 1970 and 1981.

It quoted Vietnam's President Vo Chi Cong as saying the current visit marked "a new development in the relations of amity and solidarity between the Vietnamese and Palestinian peoples."

On Tuesday night, Cong and other senior Communist Party leaders gave a banquet at the presidential palace for Arafat and the other top PLO officials in his entourage, the agency said.

Arafat was expected to visit Cambodia after his Vietnam trip, official Cambodian media said.

Some news reports said he may give Cambodian authorities a message from Prince Norodom Sihanouk, leader of guerrilla groups fighting the Cambodian government and Vietnamese troops backing it.

Vietnamese army entered the country in late 1978 but intensified efforts to reach a peace settlement have followed its recent announcement that it will withdraw all troops by Sept. 30.

Arafat met Sihanouk Sunday in Pyongyang, North Korea's capital, official North Korean media reported. Sihanouk lives part of the time in Pyongyang and in Peking.

The media did not say what they discussed.



Yasser Arafat with North Korean leader Kim Il Sung in Pyongyang

Shamir: No poll before revolt ends

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, facing a challenge from hardliners in his rightist Likud Party, has ruled out elections for Palestinians until they end their 18-month-old revolt in the occupied territories.

Shamir's office said about 50 hardline members of Likud's central committee questioned him Tuesday about his plan for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to elect delegates to talks on interim self-rule.

"They asked for an end to the intifada and he said of course, as long as there is an intifada, there will be no elections," a spokeswoman for Shamir said on Wednesday.

Hardline Likud critics of Shamir's plan have insisted the uprising be crushed before elections are contemplated.

The critics, expected to chal-

lenge the initiative at a meeting of the party's 2,600-member central committee July 5, regard the occupied territories as their "birthright" and vital to Israeli security."

Palestinian leaders have given conditional support for Shamir's election plan but suspect him of trying to end the uprising without real concessions.

Shamir's spokeswoman said Likud members Tuesday did not ask him if the 140,000 Palestinian residents of Arab Jerusalem would be entitled to vote, but he assured them all of Jerusalem would remain under Israeli rule.

"You have nothing to worry about. Jerusalem is something that is not up for negotiation. I want the same things as you do, you are worrying for nothing," Shamir was quoted as saying.

Palestinians have demanded Arab Jerusalem residents vote in

any poll in the occupied territories.

Leading the Likud opposition are hawkish Trade Minister Ariel Sharon, Housing Minister David Levy and Minister-without-Portfolio Yitzhak Modai. They want the central committee to vote on their proposal to amend the initiative.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens expressed the hope that Israel's gesture in flying in 65 Armenian earthquake victims for medical care would speed the renewal of diplomatic ties with the Soviet Union.

"Everything that causes a change in public opinion and a feeling of friendship and maybe even gratitude for Israeli efforts to help the population of the Soviet Union, I think, will also influence the decisions of the (Soviet) government," Arens said in an Israel Radio interview.

Arabs in the occupied territories

discussed.

The critics, expected to chal-

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Sudan says 24 killed

KHARTOUM (AP) — The army said Tuesday it killed 24 southern Sudan rebels in three battles last week, the first reported major clashes since a cease-fire took effect more than a month ago. Al Guwat Al Musala, the military's official newspaper, said the battles were widely scattered in three regions of the south, where the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) has waged civil war for six years. The government side reportedly lost two members of "friendly forces," which normally means government-armed militias or former rebel troops fighting for the government. Southern battlefields have been generally silent since May 1, when the rebels announced a monthlong cease-fire that has been extended twice to allow passage of relief supplies to southern famine areas. The current extension is to expire at the end of this month. Prime minister Sadeq Al Mahdi has welcomed the truce, but the government has not reciprocated officially. Both sides have accused the other of minor violations but not of the magnitude of those reported by Al Guwat Al Musala.

Egyptian theologian to stand trial

CAIRO (R) — Blind Muslim theologian Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman will stand trial Aug. 6 for inciting violence and taking part in anti-government demonstrations, state security sources said Tuesday. Abdul Rahman, regarded by many members of the underground Islamic Jihad group as their spiritual guide, was arrested in April after radical Muslim clashed with police in the oasis town of Fayoun, 100 kilometers southwest of Cairo. Prosecution charged last month that Abdul Rahman led a demonstration which later swelled into a riot April 7.

Hizbullah: Kidnapping may be a mistake

BEIRUT (AP) — The spokesman for the fundamentalist Hizbullah (Party of God), which is believed to be an umbrella for captors of foreign hostages, said Tuesday the kidnappings may have been "a very big mistake." Hizbullah has repeatedly denied involvement in the kidnappings, although Western and local intelligence agencies have linked it to the underground factions that have claimed the abduction of most of the 17 Westerners missing in Lebanon. Speaking at a news conference, Hizbullah spokesman Ibrahim Al Amri reiterated: "We have repeatedly stressed that we have nothing to do with the hostage issue." But when pressed by protesters for comment on the fate of the captives, he said: "It is possible that we might feel that some acts might have involved a very big mistake. But we have to face our mistakes in the way that preserves and respects our society."

5 killed, 13 hanged in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — Five "bandit counterrevolutionaries" were killed or wounded in southeastern Iran, and 13 drug traffickers hanged in nine Iranian cities, official Iranian media reports said Tuesday. The Islamic Republic News Agency said that one man was killed and four others severely wounded when law enforcement agents ambushed the men in a two-day swoop as they crossed into southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan province. It did not say where they were coming from. IRNA described the men only as "bandit counterrevolutionaries" and did not list their crimes, or the reason they were ambushed by agents of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards corps. It quoted an unidentified official as saying that the ambush was assisted by volunteer tribesmen and that only one of the four wounded was captured.

Manila deplores Israeli practices

By B. Alemeddin
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Philippines Foreign Minister Raul Manglapus has said his country deplores Israel's oppressive measures against the Palestinian people in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Since violence cannot be a means to settle the Palestinian problem.

The Philippines supports the Palestinian people's rights as well as the right of the Israeli people to a homeland of their own, Manglapus said in a statement to Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

He said to achieve that goal a peaceful settlement is required to end the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He said that Farouk Al Kadoura, head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) foreign affairs, had expressed a desire to visit Manila and the Philippines government would welcome such a visit.

Asked whether Manila would apply pressure on the Israeli government to stop repression, Manglapus said that there was "no doubt" about that, and the Phi-

ippines stands at the United Nations supports this view.

Manglapus made the remarks during a recent visit to Saudi Arabia where held talks on Saudi-Philippines relations, and was received in audience by Crown Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz to whom he delivered a message from Philippines President Corazon Aquino to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia.

The talks with senior Saudi officials covered the condition of Muslim communities in the Philippines, the prospect of granting Muslims autonomous rule in implementation of an agreement reached between former Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos and the leader of the Moro Liberation Front in Tripoli, Libya, in 1979.

The talk also covered the conditions of Filipino workers in Saudi Arabia, bilateral cooperation and international issues.

Manglapus voiced his government's deep appreciation to Saudi Arabia for the good treatment accorded to the Filipino workers in the Kingdom.

Manglapus said that the prob-

lem of the Philippines' Muslims was being solved after the country's parliament had approved "autonomy rule" for their communities which would have the right to apply Islamic law in their areas.

He said the Tripoli agreement would be implemented in the Philippines as soon as possible; and "once this takes place, no more complaints or grievances will remain."

The Philippines government, the minister said has already embarked on the implementation of development projects in remote areas inhabited by Muslims. These areas have been visited by Aquino, who emphasized that no racist policies are being exercised in the Philippines against any minority. Manglapus said that the country's Muslims and Christian population coexist in harmony and there was no discrimination of any kind against any side.

The foreign minister admitted there were isolated clashes between Muslim and Christian groups in remote areas but that the majority of Muslims and

Christians were living together in total harmony.

Referring to the communist insurgency in the Philippines, Manglapus said that the rebel movement had been able to launch attacks in some parts of the country through assistance from China and certain Eastern European countries.

"Although the communists continue to cause some unrest, they are certainly unable to bring down the present government or the present regime," the minister said.

Manglapus emphasised that the economic situation in the Philippines was sound and healthy despite the difficulties left behind by the Marcos regime "which plundered the country's wealth."

Asked whether Marcos who is critically ill in exile in Hawaii, would be allowed to be buried in the Philippines, the minister said, that there can be no prospect for this at all. The Aquino government, he added, will not change its position with regard to this question because it places national interests above all considerations.

The successful Iraqi assault on Fao gave a major psychological boost to Baghdad's army, which after early successes in the war had a reputation as a defensive rather than offensive force.

Military observers described the 1988 battle for Fao as the turning point in the war.

Baghdad said the town's recapture was the key to later military operations which expelled Iranian troops from Iraqi territory and forced Iran to announce its acceptance of the U.N. brokered ceasefire in July last year.

The Iraqi media refer to Fao as "the town of sacrifices and the gate for victory."

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said this week that the rebuilding of Fao will be allowed to return to rebuild their lives when work on roads and other public services are completed.

Forces on both sides of the border still eye each other warily across the palm-fringed frontier, but instead of the whistles of shells and the flat bark of tankfire, the sounds of construction, not destruction fill the air.

Gulf battlefield now a building site

FAO, Iraq (R) — Bulldozers have taken the place of tanks in the devastated Iraqi peninsula town of Fao where some of the fiercest battles of the Gulf war were fought.

Construction workers' tents occupy spaces fought over by Iraq and Iranian troops in a series of running battles that forced Tehran's forces back across the Shatt Al Arab waterway in the last bloody months of the eight-year-long war.

Shell-pocked buildings and cratered roads scar this dusty outpost where Iraq has mobilized an army of workmen to make good the destruction in the war-shattered town at the northern tip of the Gulf.

Fighting continued for 42 days as Iraqi forces fell back from Fao, but held their lines near the Umm Qasr naval base to the north as Iran's supply lines became overextended.

Iraq says 52,000 of its soldiers and 120,000 Iranians were killed in the battles around Fao which it recaptured after a spectacular, two-pronged thrust by heavy army and infantry early in April, 1988.

shells echoed through the ruins. "Now the roaring thunder of construction equipment is disturbing the peace," he said.

"Fao fell into Iranian hands in February, 1986, after a nighttime surprise attack across the disputed Shatt Al Arab, which divides the two countries' borders at the head of the Gulf.

Revolutionary Guards poured across submerged piers secretly constructed by military engineers.

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Khamenei repeats demands

NICOSIA (R) — Iran has rejected Iraqi charges of war mongering and urged Baghdad to withdraw its forces from Iranian territory to make peace possible.

"As long as enemy forces are on our territory we do not have the necessary confidence in the peace talks," said President Ali Khamenei, elected leader of the Islamic republic after the death of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini June 3.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman, Hanns Schumacher, said West Germany had asked that an Iranian diplomat be recalled after receiving U.S.-provided information about his suspected links to the chemicals deal.

But the diplomat had already left West Germany, Schumacher said.

"The person in question has not worked at the (Iranian) embassy for some time, and will not resume his duties there," Schumacher said.

Schumacher did not identify the diplomat by name, or indicate why he had left before the West

Iranian linked to chemical weapons no longer in Bonn

Germans were informed of his alleged involvement in arranging the sale of the chemicals.

Informed sources in Bonn, who requested anonymity, identified the diplomat as Seyyed Karim Al Sobhani. They said he had been working at the Iranian embassy since September 1987.

Sobhani was also allegedly involved in the case of a West German national, Peter Walschek, who was arrested in July 1988 in the United States for attempting to ship to Iran the chemical thiodiglycol, which is used to make mustard gas.

Walschek later pleaded guilty to violating U.S. export laws, and said he purchased the chemicals at the request of Sobhani.

It said the gas was to be made by an Indian manufacturer, but the bulk of the chemicals was not delivered.

Diplomatic sources in Bonn say U.S. Secretary of State James Baker personally informed West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher of the allegations in Washington June 21.

Americans about this last week," said Mueller, spokesman for Middle East affairs.

"We have notified the appropriate departments to take the necessary steps" for an investigation, Mueller told the AP in a telephone interview.

Asked which company was being probed for involvement in the deal, Mueller said: "I cannot name the company." He declined to elaborate.

The New York Times said in its Tuesday editions that the Dusseldorf firm, which U.S. officials also did not identify, had acted as a broker in arranging the sale to Iran of hundreds of tons of thionyl chloride, a chemical that can be used to make mustard gas.

It said the gas was to be made by an Indian manufacturer, but the bulk of the chemicals was not delivered.

In Bonn, another Foreign Ministry spokesman, Rainer Mueller, said federal officials are taking steps to investigate the Dusseldorf firm that the United States alleges acted as a broker in the Iran chemicals deal.

"We were informed by the

Watermelons 50 / 50

FOR FRIDAY

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Tighten where possible, loosen where necessary

IT IS one thing to ask of the high and middle income segments of the Jordanian society to bear the brunt of the economic and fiscal readjustments forced upon us in these difficult economic times, and quite another to demand of the low income groups to also tighten their already tightened belts for this purpose. Clearly it is not unduly harsh, especially for the rich bracket of Jordanians, to adjust to the new realities in the Kingdom's economy. Everyone knows that any such readjustments would barely make a dent in their life-style. To a much lesser extent, the same applies to the middle class of Jordanians, albeit they will have to endure much more in order to lower the standard of living they are used to. As for the poor among us, it is simply inhuman to call on them to share in the overall belt tightening in view of their already depressed standard of living. Accordingly, it would be prudent and wise to make financial arrangements for the poor such as adjustments to the cost of living to enable them to cope equitably with the inflationary trends in the country. It is suggested here that all low income groups of the society, be they from civil service, security forces, private companies, farmers or self-employed people, be accorded special treatment to help them keep a roof over their heads in humane conditions. Whatever the price tag of such a scheme, it will surely never be as high as the cost of neglecting the needy among us. How to finance such a plan is of course something that only the experts can dwell on. Maybe they will be called upon to improvise the best way they could to accommodate such a humanitarian task, which, if left unattended, could become a cause of instability. Obviously, improving the lot of the poor in the country should be accorded a very high priority on par with even our defence needs. Once we are convinced of its urgency there is no limit to how far we should go to rectify it. Any counsel to the contrary stands to cause the country great harm.



JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i newspaper Wednesday hailed the graduation of a new batch of officers to serve in the Armed Forces and the security forces in Jordan and said the new batch, equipped with high military skills and supplied with information is bound to contribute to the defence of the Arab homeland. The newspaper said that the new officers will augment the potential of Jordan's defence force in the face of external danger, and echoed the King's statement at the graduation ceremony in which he said that Jordan's security was part of the security of the whole Arab Nation. The paper said that the Armed Forces are therefore bound to protect the Arab order and the Arab soil. The Arab people of Jordan look with pride to the new graduates on whom they pin hopes to provide security for the nation.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily says that the final statement issued in Madrid by the heads of state of the European Community countries prove that the Europeans fully understand the situation in the Middle East region. Indeed their views are quite close if not identical to that of the Arab Nation. Mahmoud Rimawi notes in his column. He says that the Europeans have once again confirmed their support for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, and stressed the need for the PLO to be involved in peace negotiations. The statement in Madrid said Shamir's election plan was a positive move provided it was linked to a package deal providing for a comprehensive settlement not an autonomy rule, and that Arab residents of Jerusalem should be included in the elections, thus reaffirming Europe's refusal of Israel's annexation of the Arab city and its adherence to the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, the writer notes. He says what is important is that Europe rejects the elections idea as in its separate form and insists on a comprehensive agreement which can ensure a lasting settlement. What the Arabs should do now is to build on this positive development and reactivate the work of the Arab League's committees to maintain the dialogue with Europe and to canvas further support for the Palestinian cause.

Sawt Al Shaab daily commented on the graduation of a new batch of army officers from Mutu University as saying that King Hussein has exerted all possible efforts to create a high institute for military training and military strategy to turn out qualified people to lead the defence of their country. King Hussein has been keen on providing the Armed Forces with all means for defence and with all requirements for continued development, the paper noted. It said that the King, in his address to the graduation ceremony, has reaffirmed the meanings of military service which, he said, is characterised with bravery, sacrifice and continued endeavour. The King has also reminded the graduates of their duty alongside their colleagues in the Armed Forces, and said that Jordan will continue to uphold the principles of the Great Arab Revolt and achieve its objectives.

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Have a fresh look, Mr. Baker

By John Law

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's speech to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (Aipac) on May 22 has been widely praised for its so-called "evenhandedness". While he surely deserves a compliment for the unprecedented willingness of a secretary of state to criticise some Israeli (as well as Palestinian) policies in blunt language in front of such an audience, I fail to see the virtue of "evenhandedness" in such a context. Evenhandedness is a worthy criterion for the process of justice — ie, both sides to a dispute should get a fair hearing for their views. But it shouldn't require a national political leader to address an issue as though he believes both sides are equally right or equally wrong. Actually, about the only times this does seem to happen is with the Arab-Israeli conflict, when any official who believes the Arabs have a better argument than the Israelis finds it politically expedient not to say so, often preferring to wish a plague on both their houses — an approach that tends to be regarded by the American public as an admirable display of fairness. But would it have been fair in 1940, before we were yet at war, if President Roosevelt had "evenhandedly" criticised both the Germans, for occupying France, and the French underground, for resisting the occupation?

In chastising Israel during his speech, Mr. Baker told Israelis that they should give up the idea of a "Greater Israel" beyond their current borders, refrain from settlement activity in or annexation of the West Bank and Gaza; count on a "settlement based on Resolution 242" to protect their "security interests" there; allow Palestinian schools to reopen, and "reach out to the Palestinians as neighbours who deserve political rights". So far so good.

Mr. Baker's advice to the Palestinians, as with the Israelis, was summarised by him in brief paragraph, which I will deal with sentence by sentence:

Now is the time to speak with one voice for peace.

The Palestinians are speaking with one voice — the voice of Yasser Arafat. This is because there is a consensus among Palestinians both in and out of the occupied territories that the PLO is their representative, and Arafat happens to be the PLO's chairman. This does not mean that all Palestinians agree with what he says, any more than all Americans agree with everything that President Bush says. Numerous Democratic leaders speak publicly about their disagreements with various of his policies, and so do many Republicans. Does this mean that the United States does not "speak with one voice"? Are there any countries other than dictatorships where voices of opposition do not speak up?

Practice constructive diplomacy, not attempts to distort international organisations, such as the WHO.

Arafat did try to get the PLO admitted to the World Health Organisation, but it was part of his continuing effort to gain recognition for the PLO and for its declaration that Palestine is a state. Surely Arafat was not attempting deliberately to "distort" an organisation affiliated with the United Nations, whose General

Assembly has been such a strong supporter of the PLO. It would be more accurate to say that it was the United States that attempted to "distort" the WHO, when it threatened to withdraw funding from it as a means of building up pressure against Arafat, rather than fighting his proposal on its merits from within, as a loyal, dues-paying member of an organisation ought to have done.

Amend the Covenant. The "Covenant" — more usually translated as the "Charter" — is not a constitution. It is more like a Declaration of Independence, in that it is essentially a people's statement of principles and a call to action, aimed at getting rid of a system viewed as tyrannical and unjust, and replacing it with a better one. The Palestinians who wrote the Charter believed that Zionism was tyrannical and unjust because it used force to establish a state in Palestine that would be ruled by members of one religion instead of allowing those who lived in Palestine to have a single, secular state where Jews, Christians and Muslims would live as equals. Practically all Palestinians believe that this idea was, and in principle still is, a valid one — but their parliament, the Palestine National Council, has decided, in accordance with its constitutional processes, to adopt a policy that would limit an independent Palestinian state to the area of the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem. That makes this PLO policy, and as such it now supersedes the Charter's call for a single secular state in all of Palestine. For this reason, Palestinians see no reason why they should have to change their Charter — like our own Declaration of Independence — a product of its time.

We in the U.S. never talk about amending the Declaration of Independence, even though many of the things said in it are today no longer acceptable even to Americans. Surely, we no longer think of the British government as one that imposes "death, desolation and tyranny," perpetrating "cruelty and perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages"? And do we agree with the Declaration's description of "the merciless Indian savages, whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions"? Let's stop trying to revise the history of rhetoric and get down to solving current problems.

Translate the dialogue of violence in the intifada into a dialogue of politics and diplomacy.

I thought the Palestinians had already done this. By showing how strongly they feel about occupation, through carrying out an intifada that just won't stop, the Palestinians developed the confidence to recognise Israel behind its 1967 borders and to accept U.N. Resolution 242 — and then managed to convince the United States to recognise the PLO. Palestinian dialogue and diplomacy are alive and well, as never before.

Is that so? Israel used violence to take over the West Bank, Gaza, East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights 22 years ago, and its been working for them ever since.

Reach out to Israelis and convince them of your peaceful intentions.

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, JUNE 29-30, 1989

I guess I've been in a dream these last six months. Let's see: Palestinian leaders meeting Israelis at a flurry of seminars in the U.S. and elsewhere to discuss "peace"; Arafat saying he would even go to Jerusalem to talk with Israeli leaders if they invited him; the PNC in Algiers accepting Resolution 242 and voting for a "two-state" solution to their conflict with Israel; Arafat in Algiers, Stockholm and Geneva continually rephrasing his "recognition statement" on Israel in order to satisfy a nit-picking state department; Bassam Abu Sharif, producing again and again eloquent and lucid explanation of how and why the PLO really means it when it says it wants peace with Israel. I don't think I dozed off — but maybe Mr. Baker did.

No one is going to "deliver" Israel for you.

After 18 months of intifada and more than 500 dead, it's about time that the administration stopped talking to the Palestinians as though they are always looking to get things the easy way, on a silver platter. They will always hope, of course, that the administration and Congress might work up the courage to suggest to Israel that it will cut off aid if it continues to use the money in ways that conflict with U.S. policy and damage the prospects for peace. But after 41 years, during which this has been done only once (by Eisenhower in 1956, when aid to Israel was very small, and the Israeli lobby much less powerful), the Palestinians are not so naive as to believe that they can depend on the U.S. to "deliver" Israel in this way. On the other hand, it is the U.S. that is being naive if it assumes it can get a peace settlement in the area without putting meaningful pressure on Israel. And the only meaningful pressure we can exert is by cutting back the aid we give the Israelis, which is not their birthright.

The administration also seems to assume that there's lots of time to work things out. Mr. Bush and his aides talk of the need not to rush, to depend on a series of "small steps" to reach the goal over a period of years. They are dead wrong.

When Arafat decided to try to convince the world of the PLO's sincerity in wanting a peaceful solution by playing its highest cards — recognition of Israel and acceptance of a homeland on only a tiny part of Palestine — he did it without any assurance that Israel would, in return, recognise either the PLO or the Palestinians' right to an independent homeland. In doing that he made what large numbers of Palestinians thought was a dangerous and foolish gamble. They argued that the record has shown that Israel never responds to Palestinian concessions, only to Palestinian pressures. So far, they think they have turned out to be right, and I think it's safe to say that not a day goes by in the occupied territories or in the diaspora without several more disillusioned Palestinians deciding to join or throw their support to those who think the only solution lies in armed resistance. It doesn't help that the Israeli government is using a heavier iron fist than ever in the territories, and that Israel's hawkish West Bank settlers are on the rampage.

It's time to take a new look at the roots of the problem, Mr. Baker. Quickly — Middle East International, London.

Zimbabwe shucks Socialism, seeks investors

By Angus Shaw
The Associated Press

BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe — The economic theories of Marx and Lenin are losing their luster in Zimbabwe, Africa's youngest avowedly Socialist nation.

"Even dreaming of Socialism is a non-starter," says Hebert Ushewokunze, the country's minister of political affairs. "We won't see true Socialism here. Nor will our children."

As a doctor, Ushewokunze, 51, tended Marxist guerrillas wounded in the seven-year war that led to Zimbabwe's independence from Britain in 1980.

As political commissar in President Robert Mugabe's ruling party since then, he has been given the task of promoting revolutionary fervor among the party faithful.

So it may not have been easy for him to do a reversal and explain the country's new investment code to a group of businessmen recently in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe's second city.

"We have lifted the lid by inviting external investors," he told them. "I don't see this investment atmosphere as conducive to the goals of a Socialist child."

Experts say some 300,000 students will leave school next year and enter an economy that is producing only about 7,000 new jobs a year. Unemployed voters will outnumber employed voters 3-to-1 in the 1990 parliamentary election.

Business and government leaders agree all of that was not lost on state planners. So in May, after months of speculation that something of the sort was coming, Mugabe announced the new investment code.

It allows foreigners to hold 25 percent of the share value of new investments, up from 15 per cent. It also permits them to remit 25 to 100 per cent of their profits abroad in hard currencies.

"We have been given a bone, but there's not enough meat on it," said Arthur Chapman, a business executive in the capital, Harare.

A black entrepreneur, who asked not to be identified, said the state's ideological dilemma created an investment policy that "was not dramatic enough to attract the high rollers we really need."

Mugabe came to power after independence, vowing to lead the former colony of Rhodesia on Socialist principles. Two journalists involved in the broadcast were suspended.

But if Makamure and his disciples think the code strays too far from Socialist philosophy, many businessmen believe it doesn't go far enough.

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Hungary's party reformers and conservatives face hot summer

By Alex Bandy
The Associated Press

BUDAPEST, Hungary — Communist Party reformers have won a victory at a weekend crisis meeting of the central committee that put three of them on a newly created four-man presidium charged with running the party until the fall.

Reformers were also strengthened Saturday at the meeting of the policy-making central committee by the appointment as party chairman of Rezső Nyers, the father of pioneering economic reforms in the late 1960s.

Nyers, Minister of State Imre Pozsgay and Premier Miklós Nemeth, all well-known reformers, will now run the party along with General Secretary Karoly Grosz, a centrist in power for just 13 months had led the party alone until Saturday, and the formation of the four-man presidium represented a severe check on his authority.

The changes were apparently aimed at averting a complete split in the ranks of Hungary's ruling Communists until a congress selects new leaders this fall.

"It was a maintaining operation, ensuring the party to hold on and prevent it from falling apart before the Oct. 7 congress," commented a Western diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Grosz has lost standing recently with a series of contradictory statements interpreted as vacillation by both reformers and conservatives. Increasingly open conflicts between the two wings left him little middle ground, and several party reform groups called publicly for his ouster ahead of the two-day central committee meeting.

The reformers enjoy general popularity across the nation. But Grosz's inclusion in the new leadership suggested reform-minded Communists had been forced to strike a balance with disgruntled conservatives.

"This was a conscious compromise in which everybody knew the rules of the game. Previously compromises were made in secret... but at the congress we'll speak openly," Mai Nap, an independent afternoon daily, on Sunday quoted an unnamed party official as saying.

The official appeared optimistic about the chances of true democracy in the wake of the meeting.

"It seems to me that the central committee is unanimous on the question of being generally committed to a multi-party system in which the (Communist) Party will be only one party among many working under the same conditions," he said.

The first act of the new leadership was to revamp the nine-man party politburo, expanding its membership to 21 and renaming it the political executive committee.

The makeup of the new politburo also struck a balance between reformers and conservatives, including all nine members of the old body. Among other important reformers is Foreign Minister Gyula Horn, influential historian Maria Ormos and Csontos grad county party boss Pal Vasagh.

Reformers also showed their strength in achieving the ouster of Janos Berecz, a former chief ideologist who lost his politburo seat in April, from the influential rank of central committee secretary.

Spokesman Laszlo Major said the central committee decided that the process of delegate selection for the congress should be completed by Aug. 25, with one delegate for every 600 of Hun-

gary's 700,000 Communists.

The makeup of the delegates will decide whether the congress gives wholehearted backing to reform.

If not, a party split is still possible.

Nyers, Pozsgay and Nemeth have openly supported reform groups formed inside the party in the last three months and backed a new movement for a democratic Hungary and other democratic groups.

The reformers believe that only their more democratic policies can give the party hope of emerging as the strongest force from next year's elections and then forming a coalition government with the strongest of some 30 democratic opposition groups.

A public opinion poll last month conducted by two leading sociologists showed that only 35 per cent of those queried would vote for the Hungarian Socialists' Workers' (Communist) Party, if free elections were to be held within one month.

According to the survey, the ruling Communists, together with the Social Democrats, would muster just about 50 per cent, enough to form a leftist coalition cabinet.

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

SEPT / SEPT

Le premier ministre israélien, Yitzhak Shamir, a le mérite de la clarté. S'adressant lundi à la commission des Affaires étrangères et de la Défense du Parlement, à Jérusalem, il a déclaré que son initiative en faveur d'élections dans les TERRITOIRES OCCUPÉS «était plus importante d'un point de vue médiatique que sur le fond». Répondant aux questions des députés, il a notamment exclu que ce scrutin aboutisse à la création d'un «Parlement palestinien». M. Shamir a également réaffirmé que les élus de Gaza ou de Cisjordanie seraient uniquement chargés d'administrer la vie quotidienne dans le cadre d'un «régime d'autonomie» et serviraient d'interlocuteurs pour négocier un règlement global du conflit israélo-palestinien. Si ces paroles ont pu rassurer un courant important du Likoud, qui, à l'instar des ultra-nationalistes, dénonce le plan d'élections adopté par le gouvernement, elles auront difficilement satisfait la communauté internationale, et particulièrement les Etats-Unis, qui entrevoient dans cette proposition une chance, mince mais réelle, de dialogue entre les deux parties. Elles risquent d'isoler encore plus la diplomatie israélienne, au moment même où la Communauté économique européenne (CEE) pousse à la négociation directe avec des représentants de l'OLP. Les ministres des Affaires étrangères des Douze, réunis lundi et mardi à Madrid, ont en effet adopté une résolution demandant formellement «la participation de l'OLP au processus de paix».

La CEE a également approuvé une série de mesures destinées à faire pression sur la CHINE et à obtenir l'arrêt des exécutions de manifestants du «printemps de Pékin». Les Douze ont ainsi imposé un embargo sur les ventes d'armes et suspendu tout crédit ou aide financière à ce pays, tant que se poursuivra la «répression contre ceux qui ont manifesté pour leurs droits à la démocratie», selon les termes du communiqué publié à l'issue de la conférence. Ces décisions, qui viennent s'ajouter à l'embargo américain, ne semblent pas inquiéter outre mesure les responsables chinois. Le colonel Li Zheyun, chargé de faire appliquer la loi martiale à Pékin, a déclaré en début de semaine que l'armée ne regrettait pas la façon dont elle a réprimé le mouvement des étudiants. S'exprimant devant des journalistes étrangers sur la place Tian An Men, il a réaffirmé qu'aucun manifestation n'avait été tué ni écrasé par les chars le 4 juin dernier. En bon soldat, il a justifié sa «bonne conscience» en expliquant que l'armée avait été chargée «par le gouvernement central de nettoyer la place». Simplement. (D'après agences).

EN BREF

Visite. Zeid Ben Chaker effectuera une visite officielle à Damas au début du mois de juillet, la première en Syrie depuis sa nomination à la tête du gouvernement jordanien en avril. M. Ben Chaker participera à la réunion du haut comité jordano-syrien, chargé de promouvoir les échanges économiques entre les deux pays.

Balance. Les exportations de la Jordanie à destination du marché commun arabe (Jordanie, Egypte, Irak, Syrie, Libye, Mauritanie, Yémen du Sud) ont diminué de 7% en 1988, atteignant la somme de 132 millions de dollars contre 143 millions en 1987. Dans le même temps, le royaume a doublé ses importations, estimées l'an dernier à 419 millions de dollars. Les échanges entre la Jordanie et les autres pays du marché commun arabe portent essentiellement sur des matières premières, le carburant, les produits chimiques, les huiles végétales, le tabac, les médicaments, le ciment et les produits textiles.

CCA. Les ministres des Affaires étrangères des pays du Conseil de coopération arabe (CCA) se réunissent à Amman au cours de la deuxième quinzaine de juillet. Cette première conférence, depuis le sommet d'Alexandrie les 15 et 16 juin derniers, entre dans le cadre de la coopération politique permanente souhaitée par le roi Hussein et les présidents égyptien, irakien et yéménite. Par ailleurs, le premier ministre nord-yéménite, Abdel Aziz Abdel Ghani, s'est déclaré favorable à une adhésion du Yémen du Sud au CCA, dans une interview publiée dimanche par le quotidien koweïtien Al-Anbaa.

Automobile. Les Soviétiques ont annoncé lundi leur intention de lancer un nouveau modèle automobile sur le marché du Moyen-Orient. Il s'agit de l'*Aleko 141*, qui appartient à la fameuse série des Moskvitch. Selon Moscou, les premiers exemplaires seront importés par le sultanat d'Oman. La dernière née de l'industrie automobile soviétique fait également route vers l'Occident. Cent cinquante *Aleko 141* ont déjà été livrées en France où leur nombre devrait dépasser le millier avant la fin de l'année.

Archives. Le secrétaire d'Etat français aux relations culturelles internationales, Thierry de Beauçais, a indiqué la semaine dernière que la France était prête à aider la Turquie pour le dépouillement des archives ottomanes. Paris a notamment proposé de collaborer à la fondation d'une école des Chartes à Istanbul, afin de classer et de conserver ces documents qui représentent dix siècles d'histoire.

UNRWA. La France a décidé d'apporter une contribution extraordinaire au budget de l'UNRWA (Office des Nations-Unies pour les secours aux réfugiés palestiniens). Le ministre délégué aux Affaires étrangères, Edwige Avice, a ajouté que Paris «en tant que futur président de la Communauté européenne, veillerait au renforcement de la solidarité européenne» à l'égard de l'organisation. L'UNRWA, dont le siège se trouve à Vienne, dispose d'un budget annuel d'environ 226 millions de dollars pour venir en aide à plus de deux millions de réfugiés palestiniens. La contribution française ordinaire s'élève à près d'un million et demi de dollars.

Sous-marin. Un sous-marin soviétique à propulsion nucléaire a dû interrompre lundi ses manœuvres au large de la Norvège après la rupture d'une canalisation de refroidissement de son réacteur. Selon un ministre soviétique de la Défense, l'accident n'a entraîné aucune contamination de l'environnement et l'équipage n'a pas été exposé aux radiations. Accident qui intervient trois mois après la perte par l'URSS d'un autre submersible nucléaire, le *Komsomolets*, dans la même région.

Etoiles. Le lancement, à la fin du mois de juillet, du satellite *Hipparcos* par la fusée européenne Ariane permettra de mesurer la position, la vitesse et la distance de cent quinze mille étoiles situées dans un rayon de trois mille années-lumière autour de la Terre. Selon les experts de l'Observatoire de la Côte d'Azur (OCA), coordinateur de l'exploitation scientifique de l'opération, les données que cette mission permettra de recueillir seront dix fois plus précises que les mesures existantes.

Pas touche. Les hommes ne pourront plus désormais prendre les mesures des clients dans les magasins de vêtements ou dans les ateliers de confection dans les Emirats Arabes Unis. Cette mesure est destinée à «préserver les préceptes, valeurs et traditions islamiques», a indiqué le ministère du Travail et des Affaires sociales. Elle intervient six mois après l'interdiction signifiée aux coiffeurs de couper les cheveux des femmes.

Ruee. Vingt et un chercheurs d'or sont morts de froid et d'asphyxie le week-end dernier dans les montagnes chinoises du Qinghai, proches de la frontière du Tibet. Huit mille autres étaient toujours bloqués mercredi à plus de cinq mille mètres d'altitude par la fonte des neiges. Les malheureux prospecteurs s'étaient préparés, avec leurs tampons mais sans vêtements chauds, après avoir entendu dire qu'un chanceux avait trouvé de l'or dans deux lacs du Qinghai.

La sécheresse en Jordanie

De l'eau et des hommes

Une sécheresse sans pareille depuis 1928, des besoins grandissants en eau potable et pour l'agriculture, des réserves naturelles qui s'épuisent...

Le royaume hachémite fait face depuis une dizaine d'années à une crise de l'eau qui, selon les experts, risque de voir le pays presque à sec en l'an 2000

Depuis en mois et demi, les pompes du barrage de King Abdallah, au nord-ouest d'Amman sont muettes. Pour la deuxième année consécutive, les autorités ont dû interrompre l'approvisionnement de la capitale à partir de ce réservoir. Motif: l'eau commence à manquer. «Ce barrage constitue l'une des principales sources d'alimentation du gouvernorat d'Amman en eau potable», souligne Abdoul Rahman Omari, directeur du planning à l'Autorité de l'eau. «Mais le niveau descend trop vite et nous avons été dans l'obligation de stopper le pompage pour être sûrs que les exploitations agricoles de la vallée du Jourdain auront assez d'eau pour arroser les récoltes».

Parallèlement à cette décision, le gouvernement a ordonné début juillet le rationnement de l'eau à Amman, Irbid, Zarqa, Mafrak ou encore Barka. «Ce sont les zones les plus peuplées, donc les plus consommatrices», poursuit Abdoul Rahman Omari. Si les coupures ne touchent pas tous les quartiers de la capitale, plusieurs milliers d'habitants vivent cependant depuis près d'un mois à Seul le Nord, et notamment Irbid ou encore Ajloun n'ont reçu respectivement que 61% et 37% des pluies habituelles.

Plus de ressources dans 10 ans

La seule conséquence notable de cette réelle sécheresse concerne les cultures. «Avec moins de 20 mm d'eau depuis fin mars, les champs de céréales ont énormément souffert», reconnaît-on au ministère de l'Agriculture. Une souffrance infligée par le rationnement ont au minimum l'eau courante quarante huit heures par semaine, précise-t-il. Les gens coupures ne touchent pas tous les quartiers de la capitale, plusieurs milliers d'habitants vivent cependant depuis près d'un mois à Seul le Nord, et notamment Irbid ou encore Ajloun n'ont reçu respectivement que 61% et 37% des pluies habituelles.

Argument le plus souvent avancé pour expliquer le rationnement: la sécheresse des deux derniers mois. «Le mois

d'avril a été le plus chaud depuis 1928», affirme Ali Abanda, chef du département de la météorologie nationale. Nous avons enregistré des températures proches de trente degrés, ce qui est très exceptionnel. Il est vrai que depuis le 26 mars, aucune précipitation digne de ce nom ne s'est produite sur l'ensemble du royaume. «D'habitude, il plait jusqu'à la mi-mai», précise Ali Abanda.

Si une bonne partie du printemps s'est relevée sèche et chaude, les ressources naturelles du pays n'en ont pas été trop affectées. «Les moyennes enregistrées cet hiver sont normales, et parfois supérieures aux années passées», poursuit-il. Seul le Nord, et notamment Irbid ou encore Ajloun n'ont reçu respectivement que 61% et 37% des pluies habituelles.

Le problème de l'eau devient



En haut: l'osis d'Azraq il y a encore 10 ans... et aujourd'hui à sec pendant l'été. En bas, l'un des cinq barrages que compte aujourd'hui la Jordanie. L'agriculture (à droite), grande consommatrice d'eau.

encore plus crucial lorsqu'il s'agit de faire face aux besoins domestiques. D'après le ministère de l'eau et de l'irrigation, la consommation a ainsi augmenté de plus de 9,5% entre 1987 et 1988. «Il est impossible d'empêcher une telle évolution», soutient Abdoul Rahman Omari. Même si nous éduquons les gens à rationaliser leur consommation d'eau, nous sommes dépassés par le problème démographique. Non seulement la Jordanie comptera cinq à six millions d'habitants en l'an 2000, mais elle verra aussi la consommation individuelle augmenter, du fait de la modernisation des équipements ménagers qui requièrent plus d'eau. Le dilemme jordanien est clair: comment concilier un nombre toujours plus grand de consommateurs avec des ressources limitées et aujourd'hui menacées?

85% des ressources en eau potable de la Jordanie proviennent de nappes phréatiques, mais la plupart sont surexploitées depuis de nombreuses années. «Nous utilisons 150% de nos capacités», relève Elias Salameh, responsable du Centre de recherche et d'étude sur l'eau de l'Université de Jordanie. Ce qui vient dire qu'au rythme actuel, nous n'aurons plus de réserves renouvelables dans moins de 10 ans.

Inquiet de la baisse constante du niveau des nappes souterraines, Elias Salameh se montre plutôt pessimiste. «Ce phénomène risque en effet de menacer de pollution nos réserves en eau potable. Pomper l'eau peut qu'elle ne se renouvelle pas par des sources souterraines. Les nappes phréatiques, qui avaient l'habitude d'être halées entre l'Europe et l'Afrique, ont totalement changé d'itinéraire et passent désormais par le lac de Tibériade. Les chevaux sauvages meurent de soif par dizaines et la flore est presque totalement détruite».



Moujib dans le sud, ainsi que les ressources non renouvelables du désert, déclare Abdoul Rahman Omari. Mais, reconnaît-il, nous passerons quand même difficilement le cap de l'an 2000».



D'autres responsables du ministère de l'eau et de l'irrigation évoquent la possibilité de désaliner l'eau de mer et de travailler au traitement des eaux usées pour l'agriculture. «De telles initiatives ont peu de chance de voir le jour», soutient Elias Salameh. Le mètre cube d'eau désalinisé à Aqaba reviendrait à deux dollars auxquels il faudrait ensuite ajouter le prix du transport. Quant au traitement des eaux usées, il exige une politique très clairement définie que nous n'avons pas encore. Il est plus urgent de réparer notre système de canalisation d'eau potable, ajoute-t-il. Actuellement 50% de l'eau que nous pompions est perdue avant d'arriver au robinet à cause des fuites».

Des projets

Restent les projets du gouvernement comme la construction du barrage d'Al-Wahda sur le Yarmouk, près de la frontière syrienne. D'un coût de 400 millions de dollars, il devrait être opérationnel en 1992 et fournir à Amman 12 millions de mètres cubes d'eau par an. «Nous comptons aussi utiliser les réserves du

Alain Renon

10% de chômeurs en Jordanie

Des diplômes, pas d'emploi

l'octroi du permis de travail.

La crise économique n'est pourtant pas l'unique cause de la saturation du marché du travail. L'accroissement du nombre des diplômés, dont les spécialisations ne répondent plus aux besoins actuels du royaume, a également renforcé le pourcentage des chômeurs. Sur 50.672 sans emploi, 46.000 possèdent un diplôme allant du tawjihi à la licence. La Jordanie compte notamment trop d'ingénieurs et de médecins. Près de 10% des ingénieurs cherchent du travail, tout comme 300 des 7.500 médecins.

La solution s'impose d'elle-même et les autorités jordanienes l'ont bien compris qui préconisent une révision de la politique de l'enseignement. «Il faut orienter les étudiants vers d'autres secteurs productifs qui répondent aux exigences du marché, notamment ceux du tourisme et des services», explique M. Asfour souligne que certains marchés restent ouverts comme notamment le montage de camionnettes à plateau, qui accusent une très forte demande dans les pays arabes. Il faudrait, selon lui, développer cette activité en créant des petites et moyennes industries.

Signe encourageant: 1.400 demandes de créations de nouvelles industries ont été enregistrées à la Chambre de commerce depuis août 1988. Il reste à «créer les conditions propices afin d'encourager les investissements».

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Le ministère français des Affaires étrangères estime, quant à eux, que le secteur privé serait prêt à épauler l'Etat pour faire face au chômage, en développant les projets commerciaux et industriels. A condition que les autorités favorisent les investissements. M. Asfour souligne que certains marchés restent ouverts comme notamment le montage de camionnettes à plateau, qui accusent une très forte demande dans les pays arabes. Il faudrait, selon lui, développer cette activité en créant des petites et moyennes industries.

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Mending broken bridges

By John West
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — 'The Trampled Flower' is something new in Jordan. It is a film which aims to deal with weighty sociological issues — traditional attitudes towards mental illness, the binding norms of village life, and how they might be changed — in a way that the protagonists of these real life dramas can readily understand. Hail Ajloun's 90 minute two part film, shot for local television, is thus highly ambitious — it takes on more than the hundreds of conferences and committees set up to debate these and other problems — direct communication. Whether he will succeed remains to be seen.

The date is 1950. The scene is a remote Jordanian village, connected to the outside world by infrequent buses. During a wedding feast, the groom is killed by a stray bullet fired in celebration — the old custom which killed dozens a year until the government banned it last August. The bride, Rabi'a, becomes deranged from grief and trauma, and takes to washing his blood-stained clothes every day in the stream. The village boys, egged on by a malicious old woman, make her life misery while the other villagers look on indifferently.

Enter a dashing young schoolteacher Adnan from the city. His obvious distaste at this persecution doesn't make him popular with the villagers, especially as he does not eat with them. They in turn suspect his motives which makes it impossible for him to approach her directly. He mopes, writing soulful poetry in his room late at night while gradually gaining influence over the boys he teaches by day.

One day by the river he confronts the children with their ignorance, comparing the unfortunate Rabi'a to a flower which he has one of the students pick and trample into the ground. They are shamed. One night, Rabi'a, who has gradually begun to come to terms with her situation and the death of her fiance, creeps into the empty schoolroom. Her family, particularly her fierce soldier brother Salman, go looking for her all over the village. When he eventually finds her, he lifts his rifle to shoot her, but his aim is jolted by Adnan and the bullet lodges in the ceiling. This incident is the climax of her troubles, a catharsis which somehow seems to relax the villagers and prepare them to accept her.

The old bag who incited the boys against Rabi'a now finds herself coldshouldered everywhere she goes in the village.

Bystanders, like the shopkeeper and some of the menfolk, have switched their passive support to Rabi'a. The end of the year approaches, the boys take their exams and the teacher prepares to leave. Only one surprise remains.

If the plot and the broad interactions of the characters

particular time and place. Aesculus or Corneille would have been highly offended if anyone had suggested their plays were 'only' true to life, while critical theories propounded by Aristotle had it that the artist's purpose was to capture the essence rather than the substance of what they

bullet, presumably from the fatal wedding celebrations, and the teacher Adni holds it up poignantly against the background of Rabi'a washing her lost beloved's rags. Next is a shot of the teacher in his room, locked in a thinker's pose with his fingers dug into his forehead, staring at the bullet. Then Rabi'a is pictured late at night with her fierce brother standing over her shouting. When he storms out, the door slams shut like a rifle report.

Although elaborate, such imagery is effective — written description is very laboured for what relies on its immediate visual and oral impact. Many themes, such as the perpetual struggle between darkness and light, are obvious. Others, such as a quarter-second shot of a bird scared into flight when Rabi'a is spotted looking into the classroom and ducks down, are almost subliminal.

The music, composed especially by wā'il Abu Nawar, is very catchy. Always present, it varies between a faint warble in the background to a throbbing pulse designed to arrest attention from other distractions in the average viewer's room.

CRITICISMS: Although the film was made on a minimal budget, more attention could have been paid to inconsistencies. In particular, many of the actors simply looked too soft to be credible village characters, and their clothes were suspiciously 1980's for a film set in the 1950's, complete with modern bus and training shoes on the schoolboys.

Also, towards the end there is a feeling that the plot bites off more than it can chew — the villagers, in order to change their attitudes towards Rabi'a, have to be transformed in much wider spheres. Wild young men who initially greeted Adnan with open hostility, readily come to watch a puppet show in the evening. The schoolboys practically run into their end of year exams.

But all in all, this film is a tremendous achievement. It is undoubtedly worth an airing on Jordanian television and throughout the Arab world.

The thick fellahi accents, with the earthy poetry that come naturally to pure spoken dialects, are a delight in themselves.

It is too early to tell whether Ajlouni will succeed in making the film popular among Jordanian audiences,

and persuading those that they should invest in shoestring

Jordanian productions like this one instead of buying abroad

— but he certainly deserves to.

"The Trampled Flower," ranks high above the Egyptian soap operas and historical rehashes currently being shown.

were writing about.

Even today, it is odd that what is now considered coarse and unsophisticated in the static fine arts of painting and sculpture should still be almost obligatory in the moving cinematic arts. Perhaps the predominance of television, with its weighting towards non-fiction, has created a "factual" straitjacket from which cinema is too weak to escape. In any case, it is a deeply instilled prejudice which this Western viewer at least could not shrug off at first viewing. But Arab viewers uninfluenced by the Western tradition will find nothing intrinsically strange in it.

That said, once the initial shock is bridged Ajlouni's technical subtlety becomes apparent. As in tragedy or epic poetry (and the script was originally adapted from a long poem written in the 1950's), certain leitmotifs recur.

It feels unnatural that we never see a shot of the whole village during the entire film, and the constant music can sometimes be overbearing.

But it is worth remembering that in terms of the history of the arts worldwide, realism is almost a quirk, created in a

realistic, the camerawork and directing are purposely not. As in most Arab cinema or television, gestures, postures and even sometimes dialogue are highly stylised. The old bag thoughtfully grasps her chin as she utters a soliloquy, the shopkeeper literally rolls his eyes in amazement as she tells him the latest gossip; while Adnan and Rabi'a frequently play hide and seek with their eyes.

Through Western eyes

For watchers of the Western cinema, including many Arabs, which has always been dominated by social realism, this approach seems naive and even constricting.

It feels unnatural that we never see a shot of the whole village during the entire film, and the constant music can sometimes be overbearing.

But it is worth remembering that in terms of the history of the arts worldwide, realism is almost a quirk, created in a

and Cape Sounion was nothing but olive groves and croplands. Today it is one long inter-connected coastal village, dominated by tourist complexes and summer villas.

Homer's wine dark sea has also shrunk over the years. It has become, in the words of French historian Paul-Marc Henry, "a small, crowded lake, and a polluted one at that." By the mid-1970s the Med had become the receptacle for millions of tons of

pollution. Its shores were scarred with unbridled development; its cities and towns bursting at the seams with people.

Recognising the urgent need for regional action to save the Med, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) launched its first of 10 regional seas programmes in the Mediterranean. In 1975 the Mediterranean states agreed to an action plan

— People features.

Muddle in the Mediterranean

By Don Hinrichsen

DESPITE concerted efforts on the part of the 17 countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea to clean it up, the Med remains in trouble.

One of the basic problems is the vast number of people vacationing around its rim. Currently the Med's resident population of over 230 million is bloated by 100 million sun-seeking tourists who flock to it like ants to honey.

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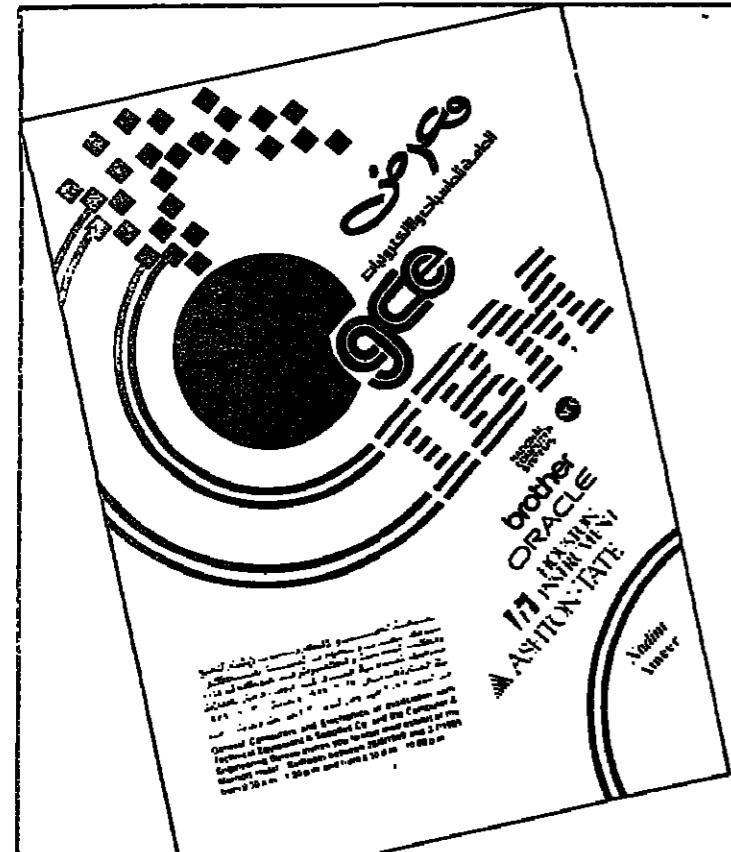
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Nomads forced to settle are turning towards crafts to earn a living. But without animals they don't have enough leather and are often forced to use synthetic materials.

Mali's nomads

Losing a way of life

By Colleen Thorpe

IN THE VILLAGE of Im Naghil, on the desert lands of Northwestern Mali, Mossa Ag Timika sits and waits for the rain. If the rain doesn't come his sorghum crop will be lost. He is impatient. In the past, if there was no water in one area, he would pack his belongings and move with his family to another area. Mossa Ag (Ag means son of) Timika longs for the days when he used to steer his herds of animals to greener pastures. But not, green pastures are scarce and he has lost more than 80 per cent of his livestock to drought. He doesn't have enough animals to support such a move or even to feed his family.

But all in all, this film is a tremendous achievement. It is undoubtedly worth an airing on Jordanian television and throughout the Arab world. The thick fellahi accents, with the earthy poetry that come naturally to pure spoken dialects, are a delight in themselves. It is too early to tell whether Ajlouni will succeed in making the film popular among Jordanian audiences, and persuading those that they should invest in shoestring

"Before, a family of about 20 would own about 100 goats, 10 sheep, 10 cows and 10 camels. Now, a family is considered lucky if it owns a few goats. Sedentation (settlement) has become an obligation." Without land to graze on, animals die and the nomads are forced to move to land which they can cultivate and raise food crops on.

As chief of Im Naghil, Mossa speaks for the thousand other Tuaregs of the village. The increasing drought of the past 20 years has forced nomadic groups such as the Tuaregs, Bellas, Maures and Peuhls who roam the Sudano-Saharan region of West Africa to settle.

Settling in a village has meant choosing survival says Mossa, but life has not improved much since the crippling drought of 1985-86 when he first settled in Im Naghil. After three years, his village is still not self-sufficient and depends on foreign aid agencies for food.

Just over 400 kilometres southeast of Im Naghil, on more fertile lands in the village of Paloe Walo, a group of sedentarised Bellas nomads are in a similar predicament — for three years they too have been struggling to survive.

"Our harvest is too little.

Farming life is difficult compared with our nomadic way of life. Before, we could go for two days surviving on just a little milk from the animals. But we can't do one day of farming without eating. We are forced to sneak out at night and cut wood illegally in order to get enough money to buy food," explains Hebraim Dicko, a villager. He says Paloe Walo needs help to survive.

The villagers of Paloe Walo and Im Naghil aren't the only ones asking for help. In the Tombouctou region of northern Mali, over one-third of the population are nomads and in the Gao region over half the population is nomadic. Over 450,000 nomads live in Mali.

Nomadism is a simple system of resource management; nomads move depending on the availability of natural resources. Because they are constantly in motion, the environment has a chance to recover from their passage. Sedentation has brought about heavy demographic pressure on certain areas of the country, namely riverbanks or areas near water points. In these areas, the need for fuelwood and construction materials, the clearing of land for agriculture and the constant grazing of the nomads' livestock has brought about massive destruction of the vegetative cover.

To determine what kind of help the nomads need, the Malian Office of Natural Resources and Livestock, with IDRC funding, completed a demographic study on the environmental and social consequences of sedentation in June 1988.

The researchers interviewed 180 chiefs and 162 women living in settlements and 15 chiefs and 13 women living in nomadic camps. Out of 18 known nomadic camps, the researchers were only able to find 7 because of the continuous movement of the nomads.

Fight against desertification

The researchers suggest the

government should regulate settlement sites, designating some areas as grazing lands for animals and reserving other areas for agriculture, and continuing the fight against desertification with reforestation programmes.

Youssouf Manian Diarra, the project leader, points out however that environmental problems have economic roots. Nomads are pastoralists; livestock raising is their single most important activity. In the nomadic social hierarchy, raising livestock was a sign of nobility, cultivating the land meant a lower social class. In the village of Paloe Walo, the nomads have not succeeded in living off the land. Consequently, cutting and selling wood has become their livelihood. The study suggests the nomads be helped in reconstituting some of their livestock. But it also recommends that for sedentation to become viable the nomads must diversify their sphere of activities to include market gardening and farming cereal grains. To do this, they will not only need materials such as seeds and tools, but more importantly they will have to be taught farming techniques.

For the people of Paloe Walo, this would work well as they are located in an oasis; water is plentiful and the flood plains are well-suited to vegetable growing. "This isn't the case in more arid areas such as Im Naghil where agriculture is difficult but nomads have settled nonetheless because it's their traditional roaming zone. The villagers there scantly supplement their income by selling arts and crafts. For this to become a viable livelihood, they will need more materials because the loss of animals has meant the loss of leather. They are now forced to use synthetic for their artwork.

Whether it be the artisan industry, cereal production, market gardening or sedentary livestock rearing, the study recommends that the nomads organise themselves into cooperatives to manage their activities. Diarra says

the government should complete the developmental framework by implementing social programmes including education and health care. But once the framework is set intervention should be minimal.

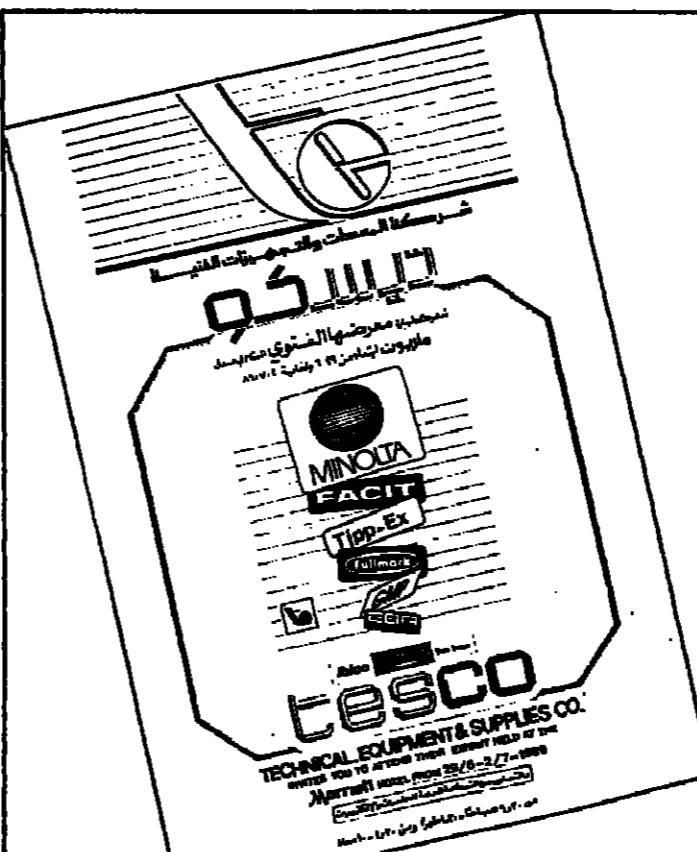
Development within the nomadic community will also be slow. Sedentation means more than just settling as the word suggests; to the nomads it means giving up their freedom. The researchers believe that without adequate inputs and training in settled agricultural practices, the nomads will only remain in settlements until they can return to the nomadic way of life. They say that for sedentation to work the nomads must get some satisfaction out of their new way of life.

"The nomad has no conception of limited space. He knows no frontiers and can't understand how someone can appropriate space," says Ambeiry Ag Rhissa, a former nomad who now works for the government.

"It's abandoning one lifestyle to take on another," says Ambeiry. That means changing such fundamental things as eating habits — nomads whose diet consists of milk and meat are not partial to the taste of millet, sorghum, fruits or vegetables. "I used to be a lot bigger and stronger," says Mossa. "Now I am weak and my skin is flaccid."

Sedentation is welcomed by some as the only option. "We understand that with sedentation we are able to overcome many obstacles. If the government succeeds in helping us, we will never leave this area," says Dicko.

For others sedentation means a loss of culture. Mossa says he will always be nostalgic for the old way of life. But he is afraid the old ways will die with his generation. "If sedentation continues and if the nomads take on new activities, our culture will disappear. Our children will not even know what a camel is if they only see fields of millet and sorghum. They will become different Tuaregs."



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Joe D. in 1989

Focus on People

Out of the shadows

By Marium M. Shahin

This week Rita Dar, the wife of a former Indian ambassador to Jordan and niece of the late Jawaharlal Nehru talks to Focus on People.

IT MIGHT not have been an easy task being the daughter of the first woman to represent her country at the United Nations, niece of India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and wife of an Indian diplomat. If you consider the psychological aspects of living with people who are revered and looked up to by millions of people, one could very well get an inferiority complex, but not Rita Dar.

"I was raised in a home where our food for thought was India's fight for freedom," that's how Dar puts it. "I spent most of my childhood in my uncle Jawaharlal's house because my parents were in prison. It was before India became independent and it was considered normal in our household that members of the family were imprisoned," daughter of Vijayalakshmi Pandit and wife of former Indian Ambassador to Jordan A.K. Dar.

Her father and mother were members of the Indian independence movement, which was led by the late Mahatma Gandhi. She could not get away from politics even after she married A.K. Dar in 1953, for he was in the Indian foreign service — the diplomatic community. "Over a period of 25 years, my husband and I travelled around the world. We lived for a period of 12 years in four Arab countries — Lebanon, Syria, Egypt and Jordan," said Rita Dar, now on a short private visit to Jordan.

"Although all the people around me were involved in politics, I have never involved myself in politics. My time has always been spent on other things. As the wife of an ambassador I always entertained and was busy in cultural activities. I found a lot of similarities between the people and the customs of the Arab World and northern India — food, dress and social aspects are often similar. In both the Arab culture and in Indian culture, women still have a long way to come to be equal to men."

Despite the edge that women in India have with their mighty vote in the ballot box, Dar does not feel that women are socially more advanced when compared to women in the Arab World. "We still have major social problems in India," she says. For example, "although legislation has been passed banning the dowry system and the so-called bride burning, it takes a long time before old customs are changed."

Dar notes that Indians, like the Arabs, are often torn between Western and traditional cultures. "However, Westernised an Indian or an Arab may become, they will always cling to their traditions in one way or another. We in the East have a passionate love for our traditions."

Despite the many advances India has made, it still has many problems, according to Dar. "After independence and the partition of India, health conditions were horrendous, living standards were very low and educational facilities were lacking. All in all, things were difficult, to say the least. Although tremendous improvements have been made since then, the ever-growing population does not allow improvements to catch up with them."

According to Dar, India has two primary problems. One is its large and ever growing population. She assesses that despite the many programmes for birth control, India's birth rate is not likely to change for some time. Since a low birth rate is usually related to economic prosperity and widespread education, India seems to be caught in a rather vicious circle.

The second problem that Dar pointed out was high defence budgets. "India and almost all countries in the world are spending outrageous amounts of their budgets on defence. Instead of spending this money on the development of the human race they spend it on destroying human race."

As a private person, Dar is doing all she can to look on the bright side of things. She has recently published a book entitled "Kashmir — the Pageant of the Seasons." Consequently, she was asked to write a similar book by the ministry of information in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) about the history and topography of the UAE.

"I like writing on subjects that have cultural and touristic value. May be someday I will have an opportunity to write about an aspect of Jordan that has not been written about," she said.

The Dars settled down in India in 1982 when A.K. Dar retired.

New labour law seeks better deal for tribes and nomads

— Reuters

GENEVA — Draft legislation intended to help protect tribes and nomadic peoples and their land against encroaching industry was tabled for approval by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) recently.

An ILO committee, completing two years of work, presented the 150-member organisation's annual conference with the text of a convention on indigenous and tribal peoples in independent countries.

Delegates said the document laid down principles aimed at preventing marginal populations such as American Indians, Australian aborigines, Eskimos and Bedouins being swallowed up or ousted from their homes by advancing modern civilisation.

The convention, expected to be formally approved by delegates

representing governments, employers' associations and trade unions, will have the force of international law and will impose binding obligations on countries which ratify it.

Danish government delegate Hans Jakob Helms said the draft did not meet all the wishes of indigenous peoples, and some of their representatives had walked out of committee sessions in protest.

But he said the document was "a significant expression of the international community's concern for peoples who have suffered discrimination, injustice, dispossession and shameful treatment."

The new document revises and replaces a 1957 ILO convention which was criticised for implying that indigenous and tribal people were culturally inferior.



With textures resembling metal armour torn by explosion, Lilian Karmouk creates designs which conjure up a tormented universe.



The disturbing beauty of Lilian Karmouk's works appeals to one's innermost feelings.

In love with the desert

By Katia Sabet

CAIRO — Looking frail in her jeans suit, Lilian Karmouk sits her ease, leaning against the balcony that overlooks one of Cairo's busiest streets. The vast room beyond with its white walls is the perfect backdrop for her powerful creations where painting becomes sculpting, or vice versa.

Greys and browns, a few touches of bright colours, and the violence is almost palpable in some compositions. The common denominator, however, is nature and basic elements — minerals or fauna — presented in the rough in a way that emphasizes their beauty and hidden power. Curiously, Karmouk's strange works seem in a way familiar, as if they appealed to one's innermost feelings.

"The main source of my inspiration is the desert," Karmouk says. "It's our Eastern desert, the Sinai: an arid landscape still bearing the imprint of war. You know, before it became the latest tourism fad, the Sinai had always been a place where historical dramas were played — migrations, prophecies, miracles, and of course battles. It's a place where the past hangs heavy. The scars of battle are everywhere, but civilisation seems to have left only faint traces. All in all, the Sinai remains a privileged area in terms of symbolism, it's been the same from times of mythology until now."

Her current exhibit at Cairo's Mousharabi gallery on Champs Elysees focuses on desert landscapes and the ruins left by ancient civilisations.

"When I saw the Sinai for the first time, the rust on the blown-up tanks looked like blood on the sand," Karmouk recalls. "My Sinai is interpreted with a historic dimension whenever possible."

We are far from the innocuous painting of sandy beaches and blond dunes. Here the artist intrudes with a bloody flag, or textures resembling metal armour torn by explosion or shredded by high-velocity bullets. Through it all, though, elements of nature surface — geological formations and flora — the design of which conjures up a tormented universe.

"I also put another aspect of the Sinai in my work," Karmouk explains. "I show the water, deep inside the rocks with its fantastic reflections and its fauna. I try to show nature before it was domesticated by man, or even robbed of its first bloom by the artist. I want to seize it in its purest form, before it becomes an 'impression' captured in people's minds."

Karmouk may be pioneering a new technique in Egypt, but she admits that the idea took hold in America where for about 10 years artists have experimented with the process. Now Europeans are following suit, and Karmouk recently was invited to teach an art class about her technique in Germany.

Inspired by Sabra and Chatila

Born about 40 years ago in Cairo, Karmouk left Egypt when she was 17, against her parent's will to study at the Academia de Belle Arti (Arts Academy) in Rome. After four years of work there, she went to Canada where she discovered that everything she had learned until then was useless, she quips. "I started to study again, and I also did odd

jobs, for example building decors for theaters, which enabled me to win the Canadian National Prize twice. I took communications classes, introduction classes to the news media, I was an art critic and a journalist."

"Then one day I found myself in Canada's northern territories, teaching American-Indians. It was the Third World portion of the continent which is the most developed on this planet! That's when I realised that I would be better off in my own Third World, where there is so much to be done. I wanted to contribute to the research on specific problems — those experienced by poor nations bypassed by the industrial revolution and

which stand in great danger of losing their traditions as they look from afar at the great trends of modern thought."

As soon as she went back to Egypt, Karmouk had a first exhibit that focused on myths — the interdependence of myths and politics, she explains. In 1982 a second exhibit having the desert as a theme was presented by Farouk el Baz, an international art expert. "It was mostly collages and acrylic paint on canvas," Karmouk says. "Oil just did not seem right to express what makes the desert."

Like Picasso driven by the tragic bombing of the Spanish town of Guernica in 1937 to create a masterpiece, Karmouk was in-

spired by the massacres in the Palestinian camps of Sabra and Chatila in Lebanon to produce a series of deeply disturbing works.

"I painted faces with wax like the funeral portraits at Fayoum," she says. "But the strips of cloth normally encircling the mummies were replaced by singed Palestinian scarves, and the faces were deformed by the heat of the fires, wax running like tears or blood. Each portrait bore the date of the person's death, with the whole series showing the deaths occurring within a few hours."

She showed the collection at the Goethe Institute in Cairo, which brought a protest from the Israeli embassy to the German organisation. The curt answer

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MY TUTOR
Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Kuwait's new budget projects higher spending, lower deficit

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait, unveiling a new budget Tuesday, said a sharp rise in projected oil income would allow it to boost spending and cut its deficit during the next 12 months.

A cabinet statement carried by the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said the government would spend 3.34 billion dinars (\$11.3 billion) in the year starting July 1, 4.4 per cent more than this year's \$11.3 billion (\$10.8 billion).

"The budget is slightly expansionary if they spend what they say they will," said a bank economist. Some of the increase would be eaten up by inflation, he added.

Kuwait emerged in 1987 from a recession sparked by lower oil income, the Iran-Iraq war and the 1982 crash of the Souq Al Manakh stock exchange. Since then it has maintained a gradual expansion.

The new budget projected that government oil revenue would jump 8.6 per cent to 1.94 billion dinars (\$6.6 billion). Non-oil revenues would also rise a hefty 8.7

per cent to 288.5 million (\$975 million).

The budget deficit would decrease 3.1 per cent to 1.1 billion dinars (\$3.7 million).

However, economists said the effective deficit would be higher, since Kuwait is required by law to put aside 10 per cent of its revenues into a reserve fund for future generations that cannot be tapped until the turn of the century. This had not been reflected in the new figures, they said.

The budget projected a 4.6 per cent increase in salaries to 927 million dinars (\$3.1 billion) and a

marginal \$3 million rise in project expenditure and property acquisitions to 760 million (\$2.6 billion).

No figures were given for defence.

Economists said the deficit might require the government to raise its borrowing ceiling for the next year.

A law issued in September 1987 empowered the finance ministry to issue bills and bonds and make direct loans for up to a total 1.4 billion dinars to finance the deficit. The ceiling was increased to three billion last March.

Faw oil interests Japanese

TOKYO (R) — Iraq may gain in its market share at the expense of other Middle East producers if its new crude oil proves as attractive as it initially appears, Japanese refiners said Wednesday.

At least four Japanese oil firms have agreed to buy spot cargoes of Iraq's Faw blend and would consider term contracts after assessing results of first refinery runs, they said.

Officials of Iraq's State Oil Marketing Organisation (SOMO), who were in Tokyo last week, told Japanese companies the export capacity of Faw blend was currently 150,000 to 200,000 barrels per day (b/d).

Laboratory tests carried out by Japanese oil companies showed Faw blend was slightly better quality than Saudi Arabia's Arabian heavy crude but with a marginally higher metal content, refiners said.

SOMO has sold the oil to Japanese firms at the same price as they pay for Arabian heavy, which is 90 cents a barrel below the average of Oman and Dubai spot prices.

These are sort of test cargoes. The purpose is to assess the crude

on a full scale," said one refiner. "The price is good, therefore if it's good quality the volume will be increased," said another.

Japanese refiners said Faw blend substitute for Arabian heavy or medium, Iranian heavy or Kuwaiti crude.

Iraq's brisk sales of Faw blend to Japan this month had already put pressure on other Middle East producers, they said.

Kuwait Petroleum Corp (KPC) quickly capitulated to Japan's insistence on unchanged third-quarter prices after seeing the results of SOMO's visit to Tokyo last week, they said. Kuwait sells its crude oil to Japan at a 50 cents a barrel below the average of Oman and Dubai spot quotes.

The National Iranian Oil Corp (NIOC) also agreed to keep its prices unchanged in the third quarter.

Iranian light prices have been fixed at average of spot Oman prices, and Iranian heavy prices at 15 cents below the average of spot Dubai prices.

It is not clear whether Iraq intends to include Faw production in its OPEC-assigned output

of the year.

Iraq's output quota will be raised to 2.783 million b/d from July.

Ideital Kosan Co. Ltd., Showa Shell Sekiyu KK and Nippon Oil Co. Ltd. will lift cargoes of Faw blend in July totalling 1.6 million barrels. Cosmo Oil Ltd. will lift 500,000 barrel cargo in August.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

UAE liberalises investments

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has agreed citizens from Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait and Oman can do business in the emirates without being required to have a 50 per cent local partner. The UAE cabinet agreed the proposal when they accepted decisions taken by Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) leaders at their December summit. Bahrain, UAE officials have said. UAE acceptance also means GCC citizens from outside the UAE will be treated equally for tax purposes with UAE citizens, they said. GCC officials said this will help bring about economic integration, the aim of the political, defence and economic alliance set up in 1981.

Oman discovers big gas field

NICOSIA (R) — Oman has discovered a new gas field with recoverable reserves of 10 billion cubic metres, the largest find in 22 years. A statement by Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) received through the Oman News Agency said the new field, in central Oman, was the fifth largest in the sultanate. The last major gas find was in 1967. Oman, which is not a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), has natural gas reserves of about 272 billion cubic metres. Last week, Oman also said it was developing a new 8,000 barrels per day oil field in the north. Production is expected to reach 10,000 barrels per day in the future.

Islamic airlines agree to cooperate

NICOSIA (R) — The national airlines of Iran, Turkey and Pakistan have agreed to set up a joint catering service to provide halal meals — food which conforms to Islamic rules — for their own planes and other carriers. Tehran Radio, heard in Cyprus, said that at a three-day meeting in the Iranian capital representatives of Iran Air, Turkish Airlines and Pakistan International Airlines also agreed to cooperate in training, cargo and passenger transport and reservation systems.

Iran to boost Africa links

NICOSIA (R) — Iran will start regular cargo service to Mozambique, Kenya and Tanzania next month to boost trade with Africa, the Iranian news agency IRNA has said. It said the Iran Akrum will sail from Bandar Abbas on the southern Iranian coast for Maputo, Mombasa and Dar Es Salaam with a cargo of shoes, detergents, carpets, cars, trucks and other goods on July 14. The ship will bring back goods such as tea, coffee, spices, paper, wood and cow hide, said IRNA, monitored in Nicosia.

U.S., Japan reach 'phone' agreement

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. and Japanese negotiators agreed early Wednesday on American access to the lucrative Japanese mobile phone market, averting retaliatory measures by the United States, the U.S. trade representative's office said.

The agreement ended marathon negotiations between Japan's special negotiator, Ichiro Ozawa, and the deputy U.S. trade representative, S. Linn Williams.

Washington had threatened to take retaliatory measures against Japan if the dispute was not settled by July 10.

The world's largest mobile phone maker, Motorola Incorporated of the United States, had been seeking to introduce its small hand-held cellular phones into the Japanese market, Japanese officials said.

Industry economists said the Japanese market is still at an embryonic stage, but is expected to grow to four million units by the year 2000 from the present 200,000.

The sticking point in the negotiations was that Motorola wanted to sell its ultralight, 10.7 ounce (300-gramme) micro handheld telephone without an adapter to meet the Japanese system, Japanese officials said.

No information was immediately available on how that problem was resolved.

Japanese officials had argued they were not blocking the U.S. product because it could be sold with modifications.

But Motorola did not want to modify its product because its marketing edge of lightness would be damaged.

Sales of top U.S. exporters total \$97b

WASHINGTON (AP) — The 50 biggest U.S. exporters sold \$97 billion worth of goods in other countries last year, an increase of 22 per cent — greater than in any year since Fortune magazine started compiling the list in 1980.

General Motors (G.M.) and Ford Motor, the U.S. biggest corporations, were also numbers one and two in exports, Fortune has said.

G.M. shipped \$9.3 billion worth and Ford \$8.8 billion, followed by Boeing, General Electric and International Business Machines.

Chrysler moved from eighth into sixth place. It opened five new export offices in Europe last year — West Germany, Switzerland Austria, Belgium, and the Netherlands — and increased its foreign sales to \$4.3 billion.

"We shipped 31,000 vehicles last year and expect to ship 50,000 this year," said Richard Muller, Chrysler's Washington public relations officer, in an interview.

He said efforts to sell in Japan resulted in shipments of only 743 vehicles last year, but 2,000 went to Taiwan.

Edward Prewitt wrote in Fortune of Chrysler's sales in Europe: "With customers clamoring for minivans and jeep Cherokee, shipments were up 42 per cent."

Compaq Computer, which was not on the list last year, increased its sales by 102 per cent, shipping \$611 million worth of equipment. There were 28 U.S. companies with export sales over the \$1 billion mark.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, June 28, 1989		
Central Bank official rates		
Buy	Sell	French franc
563.9	571.9	Japanese yen (for 100)
880.0	888.0	Dutch guilder
287.4	293.0	Swedish crown
333.7	337.0	Italian lira (for 100)
		Belgian franc (for 10)
		138.2 139.6

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets: Wednesday.		
One Sterling	1.5630/40	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1940/50	Canadian dollar
	1.9655/62	Deutschmarks
	2.2152/62	Dutch guilders
	1.6917/27	Swiss francs
	41.13/16	Belgian francs
	6.6730/80	French francs
	1419.14/20	Italian lire
	142.50/60	Japanese yen
	7.1500/50	Norwegian crowns
	7.6500/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	373.50/374.00	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

SYDNEY — The Australian share market closed higher as market leader BHP received strong support ahead of its year profit result due Friday. The All Ordinaries rose 10.6 to 1,519.0.

TOKYO — Shares plunged on reports, later denied, that Prime Minister Sosuke Uno would resign because of a sex scandal. The Nikkei dropped 223.61 to close at 33,245.60, above its afternoon lows.

HONG KONG — Stocks closed firmer after a day of thin, featureless trade and the Hang Seng index rose 12.40 to 2,245.05 on slightly higher turnover.

SINGAPORE — Renewed buying support from institutional investors pushed up the Straits Times industrial index 16.82 to close at 1,308.44.

BOMAY — Heavy buying by state-owned financial institutions for the second day running helped shares overcome lethargy and post big gains. Nocil shot up 42.50 to 1,030 but Tata Steel fell 1.5 to 1,463.

FRANKFURT — Shares resumed their recent rally as domestic firms closed their first-half accounts and shrugged off mounting tension about the Bundesbank's regular council meeting tomorrow. The DAX index closed up 13.50 at 1,491.39.

ZURICH — Shares closed higher in moderate trading. The all-share Swiss index rose 11.3 to 1,103.2.

PARIS — Shares were narrowly mixed after a very quiet morning session. The 50-share price indicator was down 0.10 per cent at midday, the same level as the morning start.

LONDON — Equities stood close to their post-crash highish late trade-but volume was light as traders left early due to a 24-hour national rail strike. At 1430 GMT the FTSE 100 was up 2.9 to 2,208.8.

NEW YORK — Negative bond market reaction to a larger than expected drop in May leading economic indicators weighed down stocks. The Dow fell nine, to close at 2517.

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Sports

SPORTS IN BRIEF

EAST GERMAN DENY DOPING — East Germany Wednesday denied allegations that all its top athletes use drugs and said in Berlin the East German defector who made the charges had himself faced an internal inquiry for trying to do ski jumpers. Former East German Olympic ski jumping champion Hans-Georg Aschenbach has alleged in a series of articles in the West German newspaper Bild that athletes are fed drugs from childhood and that all top stars are obliged to use them. DTB Sports Federation president Klaus Eichler told East German journalist Volker Kluge his organization was strictly against doping, backed moves for a world drug ban and carried out rigorous national checks. Kluge, one of the most respected East German sportswriters, reported Eichler's remarks in a rebuttal of Aschenbach's allegations. Kluge's article appeared in three East German newspapers and the DTB said it had no comment to add. He said Aschenbach, a sports doctor who defected to West Germany last year, had been respected in the East but had turned out to be an egocentric character consumed by ambition. (R)

NBA DRAFT SHUFFLES BIG-NAMES — The names were families — Fervis Ellison, Danny Ferry, Sean Elliott, Glen Rice, J.R. Reid, Stacey King — but their new uniforms were a surprise until in New York Tuesday night. The 1989 big six were all taken after six selections in the first night draft in NBA history, but the order was what had the experts baffled. Ellison, who led Louisville to the NCAA title in 1986, was taken by Sacramento, whose general manager, Bill Russell, apparently tired of soft inside defense. Ellison is the no. 3 shot blocker in college history. Ellison, who found out he was taken by the Kings, "when the commissioner announced it," said he knew Russell was interested in him, "but I was still surprised. Most of the players I was talking with didn't have any idea who was going to be no. 1." After Ellison, the top-rated half dozen went in quick succession, with Duke's Ferry going to the Los Angeles Clippers, Arizona's Elliott to San Antonio, Michigan's Rice to Miami, North Carolina's Reid to Charlotte and Oklahoma's King to Chicago. (AP)

AIF LAYS MINIMUM OF 11 EVENTS — The world's top players must commit themselves to taking part in at least 11 tournaments on the new tour next year or risk having to qualify for individual events. The Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) said in London Tuesday, ATP chief executive Hamilton Jordan said all players would have to abide by the rules when the player-run tour starts in January — although he left the door open for mavericks like Jimmy Connors, 36, who has never joined the ATP. "Players will have to look at our rules and make a decision in September to sign our commitment form or not," Jordan told a news conference at Wimbledon. Asked what would happen if a player declined to sign, Jordan said: "Well, he could qualify (for each tournament). I think you'll find that the tournament board will be very firm that our rules be abided by." But exceptions could be made for veteran champions. "Connors is a unique situation," Jordan said. "We are still discussing the question of longevity and age but no decision has been made." (AP)

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF

© 1989 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:				The bidding has proceeded:			
♦KQJ62	♦Void	0 KQ63	♦KJ654	South	West	North	East
The bidding has proceeded:				1 ♠	Pass	1 ♡	Pass
North	East	South	West	1 NT	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♣	Pass	7			
2 ♦	Pass	?					
What action do you take?				What do you bid now?			
Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:				Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:			
♦QJ5	♦J6	♦A10	♦AQJ62	♦Void	95	QJ109762	♦J1063
The bidding has proceeded:				The bidding has proceeded:			
North	East	South	West	North	East	South	West
1 ♦	Pass	2 ♦	Pass	1 ♠	DN	?	
2 ♦	Pass	?		What action do you take?			
What do you bid now?				Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:			
Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:				♦K1052	♦63	0 KJ94	♦742
♦K75	♦K32	0 K5	♦AQJ62	The bidding has proceeded:			
The bidding has proceeded:				North	East	South	West
South	West	North	East	1 ♠	Pass	1 ♡	Pass
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♣	Pass	2 ♦	Pass	?	
2 ♦	Pass	?		What action do you take?			
What do you bid now?				Look for answers on Monday.			
Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:				For information about Charles Goren's newsletter for bridge players, write Goren Bridge Letter, P.O. Box 4426, Orlando, Fla. 32802-4426.			

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

HARRIS 6-9



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NONAY

DAPIL

LAPLOW

INTEWG

Dear, why don't you get someone to help you?

WHAT YOU MIGHT END UP WITH FROM TOO MUCH HOUSE-CLEANING.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: EXILE LAPEL PRISON COMPLY

Answer: What you might find at that mom and pop shop — A NICE "SPARE"

Kingdom set on record

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — Having successfully defended his Olympic title, high hurdler Roger Kingdom says the time is now ripe for the eight-year-old world record to tumble.

Kingdom, a 26-year-old American, returned to winning form Tuesday, leaving the two other Seoul medalists behind with a year's best time of 13.13 seconds in the first rematch since the 1988 games.

"My objective is to get back in the shape I was in last year, and get the record," Kingdom said after muscling to victory in the Athletics International track meet's highlight.

He said the top-name field would have made a world record possible had it not been for a slight headwind and rainy, cool weather.

Kingdom would need to better his sea-level personal best, 12.98 in the Seoul Olympics medal race, by only six hundredths of a second to erase the world mark of 12.97 set by

Rensilo Nehemiah on Aug. 19, 1981.

Colin Jackson of Britain, the Seoul silver medalist, knocked down three hurdles and finished second Tuesday in 13.23, world champion Greg Foster was third in 13.29.

Tom Campbell, the bronze medalist at Seoul, was sixth in 13.45.

Foster, Jackson and Campbell delayed the race with false starts. But that apparently didn't faze Kingdom, who avenged losses this year to Foster and Jackson.

"This was a very special race," said Kingdom, the 1984 and 1988 Olympic champion.

"We're even now, but I have the fastest time this year."

Even with no Olympics looming, the competitive climate could be right this season as Kingdom seeks to regain last year's drive that gave him a streak of 22 wins and the second-fastest high-hurdles time ever, an altitude-aided 12.97.

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

by Thomas Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Institute.

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Caution, stubbornness, and the need for financial security are predominant today. Strong emphasis is placed on personal improvement for your efforts, added responsibility, and popularity.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You have a lot to contribute, but feel a lack of responses from associates. Expect some relief in the form of a new opportunity in the near future.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Fine tune your methods and you will reap the rewards. Financial picture begins to accelerate. Eliminate stubborn attitudes.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) A perception problem is compounded by unbinding attachments to your own ideas. Frustration exists when you feel uncreative. Be patient.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Let this day pass with a smile in spite of frustration and boredom. Friday you have your own way. Get some added rest.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Venus moves into your sign accenting your need for comfort, style, creative inspiration, and romance. Enjoy the evening pastimes.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) This is a beautiful day, and you feel it.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 1989

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Stellar influences bring us a cheerful state of mind, sensual excitement, and an increased interest in cultural affairs. Sensitivity and affection are strong today.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Love can be anything you want it to be. Go with your partner and have some fun. Keep your safety in mind.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Tension occurs trying to decide on a quiet night at home, or a night out on the town. Either way is okay, but finances may decide the issue.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) The moon in your sign accents outspoken communications. Others fail to understand you. The day is great for spontaneous pleasures.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Domestic adjustments are needed to promote family harmony. You may need personal time and space to develop spiritual insight.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) It will be easy to mistake passion for love if you let emotions rule your thinking.

Your upbeat mood can carry you into the early morning.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You overcome a career stumbling block. Better organization and cooperation.

Sanchez, McEnroe score victories as Wimbledon games begin

WIMBLEDON (AP) — French Open Champion Arantxa Sanchez waited out a 3 1/2 hour rain delay, then beat Jana Pospisilova in straight sets Wednesday for her first victory at Wimbledon.

The Spanish 17-year-old took less than an hour to advance to the second round, staying on the baseline through most of her 6-2, 7-5 victory on court 1.

In another match involving a seeded women's player, 12th-seeded Mary Joe Fernandez of the United States defeated Mary Lou Daniels 6-4, 7-5.

Sanchez used drop shots to trouble Steffi Graf in the championship match in Paris 2 1/2 weeks ago, and she used the same strategy against the Czechoslovak, hitting six drop-shot winners.

But Sanchez was less footed on the Wimbledon grass than on the French clay courts, over hit many of her ground strokes.

Rain kept the tarp on the courts at the all England lawn tennis club for long after the scheduled starting time. For the fans the rain was the second hurdle of the day; they had to wade through heavy highway traffic to get to the courts because London was hit by a subway and train strike.

On Tuesday, a dull and predictable day otherwise, John McEnroe lit up the world's most famous tennis court with the comeback of his 14-year pro career.

"I don't ever remember coming back from two sets down before," the mercurial McEnroe said after his 4-6, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, 8-6 first-round victory over Darren

Cahill of Australia on centre court at Wimbledon Tuesday.

"It's great to come back and win the match," he said. "Let's face it, I could easily be out of the tournament."

Technically, the match may not have been of the highest quality; both players struggled with their first serves.

But it transcended tennis. It was pure theatre.

"I never really got my game in total gear," McEnroe said after the 3 1/2-hour battle that started in sunshine and finished in evening gloom with a standing ovation for both players. "I don't think it's the greatest match he's ever played either. But for excitement..."

For excitement, it beat the rest of the day's matches put together.

They included straight-set victories for defending women's champion Graf and her three main rivals, Martina Navratilova, Chris Evert and Gabriela Sabatini.

Sanchez — another victory

Graf, playing her first match since the French Open, gave up only eight points on serve as she swamped Julie Salmon of Britain 6-1, 6-2. Navratilova opened her bid for a record ninth women's singles title with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Jill Hetherington of Canada.

Evert, recovered from an ear infection, downed Peanut Harper 6-1, 6-1. Sabatini conceded fewer games than any of the main contenders, trouncing Diane Evert and Gabriela Sabatini.

FRIDAY'S RACES AT THE ROYAL RACING CLUB-TUNISIA

FIRST RACE 4.00 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1000 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight	Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Khatim Mohammad Tariqy	S. Ejaziah	Owner	Hussein	56	1- Khalid Ayed	Borkan	Owner	Habib	56
2- Ahmed El Azziz El Marley	Mabrouk	Owner	Basri	56	2- Nimir El Hmoud	Jaziri	Owner	Ismail	53
3- Nelet Eled A. Jazib	India	Owner	Kasim	54.5	3- Nimir El Hmoud	B. Shams	Owner	Ahmed	56
4- Ghafir	B. Waile	Owner	Younis	51.5	4- Ghazy Farah A. Jaber	M. Saif	Owner	El Sayed	56
5- Mohammad Selman Nabuwy	Sabah	Owner	Salman	51.5	5- A. El Karim Salim Rakad	M. Brakad	Owner	El Sayed	56
6- Fayach El Assal	Nimji	Owner	Yousef	51.5	6- Ahmad Sharkey	Easa	Owner	El Sayed	56
7- Shihabid Aly Folak									

Gloom pervades Hong Kong

HONG KONG (R) — Three weeks after troops and tanks rolled into Peking's Tiananmen Square to violently suppress student-led democracy protests, the financial world in neighbouring Hong Kong is still full of gloom about the future.

Bankers, foreign exchange dealers and stock market traders said morale had plummeted since the events of June 4 and there was little sign of recovery.

Financial sources told Reuters they were deeply worried about whether Hong Kong can remain a financial centre, with most experienced professionals expected to move away before Peking regains sovereignty over the British colony in 1997.

For many, restored confidence can come only with a British agreement to give right of abode to the 3.25 million people who qualify for a Hong Kong British passport. That right of abode was removed by a British nationality act in the late 1970s.

"Only the British government returning full and equal citizenship to us can rescue Hong Kong from the threat of losing its status as a financial centre in the Far East," said a Hong Kong Chinese manager with a leading U.S. bank.

Y.S. Wong, president of the Hong Kong Forex Club, agreed. "Many treasury managers have got feed-back that most of their staff are worried about Hong Kong's political stability and want to leave," he added.

"The emigrant flood is speeding up now, simply because people here lack confidence after seeing what is happening in Peking. Some prefer to leave under their own arrangements, and not according to their bank's plan," Wong said.

According to a survey carried



Remember... Hong Kong residents carry out a traditional Chinese funeral service opposite the Chinese Xinhua News agency for those killed by the military in Peking.

out by the Forex Club last year, one-third of the foreign exchange profession planned to leave Hong Kong within three years.

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